

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 A conversation definition language (CDL) is disclosed that programmers may use to  
4 define sequences of interactions for communicating with a web service to facilitate use of the  
5 web service. CDL enables web services provided by different entities to engage in flexible and  
6 autonomous interactions. Using CDL, services can communicate by exchanging messages, and  
7 the message exchanges are expected to follow a specific pattern (i.e., a conversation). CDL is  
8 used to define the conversation, such that a service may expect a particular message in response  
9 to transmitting a particular message. CDL includes document type descriptions, interactions and  
10 transitions for describing a conversation. The document type descriptions describe the messages  
11 that may be exchanged. The interactions describe the type of actions (e.g., receive and/or  
12 transmit a message) that may be performed, and the transitions describe the possible sequences  
13 of the interactions.